

Headline	Envoy: Don't limit ties to diplomatic segment		
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SINTOK: Relationship between Malaysia and Indonesia must not be limited to diplomatic and bilateral segments alone but rather expanded to other areas said Indonesian Ambassador to Malaysia, Herman Prayitno.

Herman said relationship between Malaysia and Indonesia which has been in existence for the past 57 years, cannot be taken for granted, because there has always been 'ups and downs'.

There the time has come for an alternative channel to further strengthen and enhance the relationship between both countries, he said.

"We must initiate a passage to link young leaders from Malaysia and future leaders from Indonesia...to build the platform for a strong relationship from the early stages and to ensure the cordial relationship between Malaysia and Indonesia

remained at the optimum level always," he said when met at the Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), here Monday.

Herman had earlier launched the Malindo Festival and Round Table Discussion on bilateral relationship between Malaysia and Indonesia themed "*Peranan Jalur Kedua Diplomasi Dalam Hubungan Malaysia-Indonesia*".

"We must ensure that the relationship

between Malaysia and Indonesia remained strong at all times. There should not be any room for 'cracks' to appear," he said.

The younger generation need to be reminded of the history through which the platform for such a relationship was build because such no relationship can grow by itself.

"We must ensure that in future, the competition for progress is not between

countries but rather between individuals. Both countries must progress together and this must be emphasized among the younger generation," he said.

Meanwhile, UUM Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Mohamed Mustafa Ishak said Malaysia and Indonesia were initially 'one' in nature but colonization by the English and Dutch saw both countries separated.

He added that UUM would continue to play its role in enhancing the relationship between both countries in the field of education, especially so since UUM had signed 21 Memorandum of Understanding and four Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Higher Learning Institutions from Indonesia.

"We have 451 students pursuing their studies here and 20 visiting staff," he said. - Bernama.